

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/053,516	LI ET AL	
	Examiner Joyce Tung	Art Unit 1637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 5/2/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-5 and 10-13 (final claims 1-9).
3. The drawings filed on 16 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/1/2004 has been entered.

The applicant's amendment filed 5/2/2005 to the Office action mailed 11/01/2004 has been entered. Claims 1-5 and 10-13 are pending.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Concerning claims 1-2 and 10-13, no prior art has been found teachings or suggesting the method for screening for agents that affect protein degradation rates, comprising expressing a different fusion protein in each cell within a population of cells, the fusion protein comprising a reporter protein and a protein encoded by a different sequences from a cDNA library, inhibiting the further expression of the fusion protein to allow the expressed fusion protein to degrade in the cell, selecting a subpopulation of cells from the population of cells, contacting the selected subpopulation of cells from previous step with a plurality of agents which may affect protein degradation rates and characterizing the fusion protein expressed by the selected cells for each agent.

Concerning claims 3-5, the method for monitoring effects different growth conditions have on expression of short-lived protein comprising the additional steps as to the method of claims 1-2 and 10-13. The additional steps are of exposing samples of cells to different growth

conditions, forming cDNA libraries from the samples of cell after exposure to the different growth conditions and forming a population of cells for each cDNA library.

The closest prior art is the reference of Kain et al. (6,306, 600, issued October 23, 2001). Kain et al. disclose a fusion protein comprising green fluorescent protein (GFP) as a reporter and short live protein, mouse ornithine decarboxylase (See column 2, lines 30-33) for studying protein degradation (See column 2, lines 13-18). Kain et al. do not disclose that the fusion protein comprises a reporter protein and a protein encoded by different sequences from a cDNA library and the steps of selecting a subpopulation of cells from the population of cells.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joyce Tung whose telephone number is 703 (305) 7112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 703 308 1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joyce Tung
August 31, 2005

Kenneth R. Horlick
KENNETH R. HORLICK, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/31/05